(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what further action is proposed to be taken to make use of fire protection doors and other fire preventive measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) No, Sir. Fire protection measures are provided in the Departmental buildings according to the fire bye-laws and the standards in force.

(b) The Department has developed its own fire protection manual and instructions which are in line with the provisions in the National Buildings code and Fire bye-laws.

(c) No, Sir. The doors are provided as per the requirements of the fire bye-laws in force.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Action to make use of fire protection doors and other preventive measures is already being taken according to the standards and guidelines.

Amendment of Rules regarding Fire Safety in Buildings etc.

918. PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the existing fire safety rules for public places and premises, for multi-storied buildings, hotels and hospitals keeping in view the increasing occurrences of fire incidents;

(b) whether it is a fact that the rules are not strictly followed in Metropolitan towns and cities in the country due to laxity on the part of concerned authorities;

(c) whethero opinion of the Central Building Research Institute, Roorkee, has been sought for use of fire proof doors/windows to prevent fire accidents;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the expeditious action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) As the Fire Services are under the State Governments and Municipalities, the Central Government have not framed any such Rules, which require amendment by the Centre. 'Fire' being a State subject State Government have been requested by this Ministry to enact the Fire Force Act for which a Model Legislation was also circulated. The Ministry of Urban Development, have also circulated a National Building Code of India which *inter-alia* contains measures to be followed on Fire Safety.

(b) Fire being a State subject, it is for the State Governments and Municipal Authorities to check laxity if any on the part of the concerned authorities to enforce fire safety rules.

(c) to (e) The Central Building Research Institute, Roorkee has developed fire retardant self extinguishing treatments for wooden doors, windows and partitions. The literature on the subject was sent to Ministry of Industry for developing the material industrially. The Central Building Reearch Institute has also been requested by the Directorate General of Technical Development to approach National Research Development Corporation, for commercialising fire retardants developed by the Institute.

Policy on Punjab

919. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have changed its policy of dealing with Punjab situation politically and has now given free hand to police to deal with terrorists;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY):

(a) to (c) As already declared, from time to time, the policy of the Government has been that there would be no compromise with the anti-national elements, terrorism and violence would be put down with a firm hand and that the process of consultation and political initiatives would also continue simultaneously.

Norms for Issuing of Road Transport National Permits

920. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the norms laid down by Central/State Governments for issuing the Road Transport National Permits to the new enterpreneurs;

(b) what is the quota of Road Transport National Permit to individual State/Union Territory, State/Union territory-wise; and

(c) what are the names of State/Union Territories which have not fully utilised their allocated quota for issuing of National Permits and the reasons for not utilising the allocated quota?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) to (c) National Road Transport Permits are given in respect of two types of vehicles *viz.*, for goods carriages and for tourist vehicles. National Permits for goods carriages are issued by the State/Regional Transport Authorities in terms of sub-section 12 of section 88 of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988. There are no restrictions presently on the total number of such permits that can be issued by the State Govt./U.T. Administration. The ceiling however is placed on the holdings by an individual or company. The ceiling is five in respect of an individual and 10 in respect of a company. The applicant for the National Permit for goods carriages is to apply to the Home State to get an authorisation for operation in the plying States, the condition being that he can operate throughout the territory of India and in such contiguous States not being less than 4 in number including the Home State. The facility of payment of composite fee at one place *i.e.* at Home State and non requirement of counter-signature is provided. The vehicle to be covered by the National Permit should not be more than 9 years old at any point of time.

All India Permits for Tourist Vehicles are issued by the State Transport Authorities in terms of sub-section 9 of section 88 of M.V. Act, 1988. There are no restrictions as to the total number of such permits to be issued by the State Govt./U.T. Admn. There are, however, ceiling on holdings of the individual and the company. The ceiling is 10 for the individual and 20 for the company. The restrictions with regard to these holdings are not applicable to the permits to be granted to the India Tourism Development Corporation, State Tourism Development Corporations, State Tourism Departments and State Transport Undertakings. The applicant has to secure authorisation in respect of the plying States. For the purpose of obtaining an All India Permit for Tourist Vehicle, the applicant is to apply indicating the choice as to the operation as for the whole of India or in such contiguous States not being less than 3 in number including the Home State. The tourist vehicle to be covered under this permit has to meet the prescribed requirements of seating capacity, standard passenger comforts; and fixtures and has to have a distinguishing mark with reference to the colour *viz.*, white colour with blue ribbon of 5 cms at the centre of the exterior of the body. No tourist permit shall be granted in respect of motor vehicle which is more than 2 years old at a time of grant of permit and the permit shall be invalid from the date on which the vehicle covered by the permit completes 7 years where the vehicle is a motor cab and 5 years where it is a tourist bus/coach.